

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-34 were in the application prior to this response. In the Office Action, the Examiner: (a) rejected claims 1-5, 7, 10-12, 15-22, 24, 27-29 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,126 to Nishi; (b) rejected claims 13-14 and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over the Nishi patent; and (c) objected to claims 6, 8, 9, 23, 25 and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

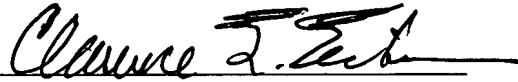
Claims 2-6, 10-22, 19-17, 19-23 and 27-34 have been cancelled by this response.

Additionally, independent claim 1 has been amended by this response to include the limitations of claim 6 as filed, and independent claim 18 has been amended by this response to include the limitations of claim 23 as filed. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 18, as amended, are in a condition for allowance and such allowance is solicited.

Dependent claims 7-9 depend from claim 1 and dependent claims 25-26 depend from amended claim 18. Since amended claims 1 and 18 contain allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 7-9 and dependent claims 24-26 contain allowable subject matter as a matter of law. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1076 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

The present application is in a condition for allowance and such action is solicited.
If the Examiner is of the view that any matter exists that would somehow preclude allowance,
the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to resolve such matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence E. Eriksen", written over a horizontal line.

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